



Timely Tidbits ...

Gold-buying Party Benefits Animal Shelter

A percentage of the proceeds from an upcoming gold-buying party will be donated to the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund, according to City Councilman Bill Wadsworth. The event will give people a chance to turn their broken or unwanted gold, silver, platinum, and/or precious stones into extra cash for the holidays.

To participate, stop in at La Quinta Inn & Suites (I-94 and Merriman Road) between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, or Sunday, December 14. On-site security will be provided for customers' safety.

"Jingle in the Water"

The Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter, and the Romulus Athletic Center are working together to offer the first-ever "Jingle in the Water" event. This holiday-themed water program – to be held at the RAC (35765 Northline Road) beginning at 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 14 – is designed for individuals who would rather not bear the elements at the Arthritis Foundation's annual 5K Jingle Bell Run/Walk. "Jingle in the Water" combines the gentle, joint-friendly motions of the Arthritis Foundation's warm-water aquatics program with the festive nature of its Jingle Bell Run/Walk.

All "Jingle in the Water" participants are encouraged to preregister, and bring family members and friends with them to celebrate the season. Snacks, goody bags, T-shirts, and discounted pool admissions will be provided to all participants.

Cost is \$15 per person.

Those who would like to participate may register by calling the Foundation at 800-968-3030. Proceeds from Arthritis Foundation special events fund research initiatives at Michigan universities, and create and sustain statewide exercise and quality-of-life programs and services. They also supplement tuition costs at the AF's weeklong residential summer camp, Camp Dakota, designed for Michigan children with arthritis and related rheumatic diseases. □

FBI: Crime Down in Romulus, Up in Taylor

Recently issued reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that the number of certain violent and property crimes reported in Romulus in 2007 declined overall compared to 2006, but increased in Taylor during the same period.

The data was published in *Crime in the United States*, the FBI's annual compilation of statistics reported by nearly 17,000 law-enforcement agencies from across the nation. "Violent crime" statistics were a combination of murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; "property crime" statistics included burglary, larceny/theft, motor-vehicle theft, and arson.

ROMULUS

In Romulus, despite a modest population increase of 475 residents, both violent and property crimes were down overall.

In the "violent crimes" category, which dropped from 181 reported incidents in 2006 to 138 in 2007, only murder/nonnegligent manslaughter was up, with two in 2007 compared to one in 2006. Rape and robbery numbers showed a small de-

cline, while assault figures were down about 30%.

The rate of property crimes decreased overall, from 1,026 incidents in 2006 to 975 in 2007, but auto theft was up 21%. Burglary, larceny, and arson were down.

TAYLOR

In Taylor, which lost about 750 residents between 2006 and 2007, violent crime was up about 16% overall, while property crimes increased more modestly.

Of violent crimes, only rape decreased, dropping from 33 incidents in 2006 to 25 in 2007. Robberies and assaults were up; murder/nonnegligent manslaughter stayed the same.

Property crimes like larceny and arson were down, but both burglary and auto theft were up more than 25%.

The data is summarized below.

City of Romulus – 2007 (2006)

- population: 24,269 (23,794)
- violent crime overall: 138 (181)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 2 (1)
- forcible rape: 16 (19)

- robbery: 29 (30)
- aggravated assault: 91 (131)
- property crime overall: 975 (1,026)
- burglary: 210 (233)
- larceny/theft: 563 (627)
- motor-vehicle theft: 202 (166)
- arson: 9 (13)

City of Taylor – 2007 (2006)

- population: 64,048 (64,800)
- violent crime overall: 273 (234)
- murder/nonnegligent manslaughter: 4 (4)
- forcible rape: 25 (33)
- robbery: 97 (78)
- aggravated assault: 147 (119)
- property crime overall: 2,864 (2,736)
- burglary: 483 (382)
- larceny/theft: 1,903 (1,983)
- motor-vehicle theft: 478 (371)
- arson: 26 (37)

For more information, visit the FBI's Web site – www.fbi.gov – and click on the "Reports & Publications" link along the left-hand margin, then scroll to "Uniform Crime Reports: Crime in the United States" near the bottom of the page. □

Basham Bill Would Ban Surreptitious Use of Stalking Devices

The Michigan Senate has voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill 1572, which was recently introduced by Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) to amend the penal code, making it a misdemeanor for a person to install a tracking device in another person's vehicle without his/her knowledge and consent.

"Tracking a person's vehicle is an enormous violation of their privacy," Basham said. "As technology advances, and products such as global positioning systems (GPS) become more prevalent, we need to take action to protect people from electronic stalking."

Basham said law-enforcement agents brought the need for this legislation to his attention after they were contacted by an elected official who took her vehicle in for repairs, only to have her mechanic discover that a tracking device had been installed on the vehicle.

Both the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Sheriffs Association support the bill.

The proposed legislation includes exemptions for police officers, professional investigators, and bail agents, as well as for devices that track vehicles to provide mechanical, directional, stolen-vehicle assistance, and weather or traffic information.

The bill is now being considered by the House of Representatives.

Basham Legislation Would Crack Down on Illegal Activity in Michigan's Adult Entertainment Establishments

Senator Basham also announced that he has introduced legislation to address community concerns about adult entertainment establishments' hiring processes.

According to Basham, a family from Wyandotte alerted him to this problem as they prepared to file a lawsuit against an establishment for hiring their underage granddaughter, high-school student Stephanie Brown, who died when club patrons provided her with a lethal dose of cocaine.

"Employing underage individuals to work in these harmful environments is not only illegal, it's child endangerment," said the senator. "By working together with the Brown family and the Lincoln Park Ministerial Association, I hope to erase any oversights and prevent these tragic incidents from occurring in the future."

"Senate Bill 1612 would allow local municipalities to require employees of adult establishments to obtain a local work permit to ensure that they are of legal age to be employed there," Basham continued. "The second bill, SB 1613, creates an adult entertainment facility tax of \$3 per customer that would be deposited into the state domestic violence prevention and treatment fund."

Richard Sands, Brown's grandfather, said he and his family are devastated over their loss.

"Stephanie had a bright future ahead of her, and it's infuriating that her life was cut short because of club owners who prey on our children," Sands stated. "We're grateful to Senator Basham for stepping up and addressing this serious issue."

A written statement issued by Basham's office earlier this month alleges that, in March 2007, Atlantis – a strip club in Lincoln Park, Michigan – employed Stephanie Brown, although she was only 17 years old and did not carry an adult cabaret employee license, which is required by the Lincoln Park Code of Ordinances. On her second night working at the club – which, reportedly, has a reputation for hiring minors and encouraging underage drinking, drug use, and prostitution – Brown died after using cocaine.

Before this incident, said Basham, Brown had no criminal record or history of using drugs, and planned to attend college in the future.

Brown's family has filed a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court against Atlantis.

The suit cites the nightclub for negligence and maintaining a sexually hostile work environment. □

Letters to the Editor

Ficano Thanked for Generosity, Caring Spirit

To the Editor:

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano for his unwavering commitment and generosity in helping those most in need. This spirit of openheartedness is a spirit that is reflected throughout the entire year, not just during the holiday season.

The City of Romulus is grateful for all that he contributes, particularly Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas toys, as well as health and prescription information to senior citizens.

Councilman John Barden
City of Romulus



Councilman John Barden

Resident Doesn't Want Taxes Used for RAC

To the Editor:

I could hardly believe what I heard at a recent Romulus City Council meeting. It concerned the new Romulus Athletic Center.

I found out that the building our City Parks and Recreation Department had been using (at 11189 Shook Road) was remodeled especially for them at a cost of \$80,000. The Parks and Recreation Department was there for close to two years, and they were charged no rent.

Then the administration transferred the department out of that building and over to the new Romulus Athletic Center. They've been there seven months and paid no rent. Then somebody in the administration came up with the idea to charge the Parks and Recreation Department rent for office space at a cost of \$140,000 a year, paid for by the taxpayers out of the general fund.

I heard that the Romulus Athletic Center has 1,743 paying memberships. Tim Keyes, director of the City's Economic Development Department, stated that it would take 4,300 memberships to break even. So, the RAC needs an additional 2,557 memberships. It appears that the Athletic Center must be hurting financially, even though Mayor Alan Lambert stated that everything is doing good. They're doing so good, they did away with the day-care center to save money, and have closed the teen center.

The administration wants to call the \$140,000 "office rent." I call it a gift from the taxpayers. I call it a bailout using taxpayers' money. Where will the next bailout come from? The Tax Increment Finance Authority? Mayor Lambert told the taxpayers that the Athletic Center would not cost them one red cent.

It's like buying a brand-new car – it can be completely loaded, but if it doesn't have gas, it's not going to run. If the Athletic Center doesn't have memberships to produce money, it's not going to run.

The \$140,000 rent will go toward operating costs to keep the Athletic Center going. I believe that the administration doesn't want it to close down before next year's election because it wouldn't look good politically. What's going to be next – the Mayor's office paying rent at City Hall?

I was told that the City is still paying for the gas, electric, and insurance on the recreation building on Shook Road.

The Romulus Athletic Center is a beautiful building inside, and I hoped it would be successful. But I don't want my tax dollars going to support it. The residents and nonresidents who utilize its facilities should be maintaining all operating costs. How many of the members that the taxpayers are supporting are nonresidents?

Harold Sell
73-year Romulus resident

RAC Is Important to Community Health

To the Editor:

I recently read Mayor Alan Lambert's "Guest Commentary" about the Romulus Athletic Center (*the little paper*, November 14, 2008). My friends and I agree that the RAC is the single most important factor in improving our overall health in Romulus.

While we have always loved our community, many seniors, families, and individuals welcome the addition of the Romulus Athletic Center to help us meet our fitness goals. The RAC is one of the most family-friendly facilities I have ever visited,

with its youth areas and day-care centers. It has excellent meeting and banquet facilities. The athletic amenities, however, take the cake.

The swimming area is state-of-the-art. My husband and I frequently bring our grandchildren to the Romulus Athletic Center, and they love the pool area. The workout machines are new and user-friendly. The areas are spacious. And the view! In a word, the RAC is awesome!

Carole Bales
Romulus

Guest Commentary

Mayor Urges Community Unity in Tough Times

By Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus

The holidays are approaching, and now is the time for us to reflect on our many blessings. I know many of our residents are hurting this year, and times are tough, but I want you to know that your city is here for you.

Our world includes a global economic crisis and many financial problems on the state and county levels – but our city is strong. Due to our diligent efforts of tightening our financial belts, Romulus continues to provide quality services with no layoffs or cuts in services.

Even though these are some of the toughest economic times in our history, we are blessed as a community. We are blessed because we are in a lot better shape than many other communities that are having to lay off employees, including policemen and firemen. Let's stick together as a community and help each other get through these tough times.

Most recently, we held an election with a record voter turnout. Congratulations to all who participated in this history-making election. Thanks to our many election workers and city employees who made sure that everything ran smoothly, and thank you, voters, for caring so much!

Throughout 2008, I have had the pleasure of serving you, and I feel blessed to receive great support from our local organizations and residents. Thanks to all our residents, community volunteers, and organizers. Your tireless efforts help us make Romulus a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Due to your confidence in us, Romulus is moving forward, and we will continue to shine.

On behalf of myself and your city employees, let me say that we are all wishing you and yours a safe, happy, and blessed holiday season.

* * *

The "Guest Commentary" column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons who would like to share information that is of interest to our readers.

For more information, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □

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Goodfellows Newspaper Drive Nets \$6,300+ in First Two Days; One to Go



Mayor Alan R. Lambert was one of many who helped the Romulus Goodfellows conduct their annual newspaper drive November 21-22.



Also working local intersections were Julius Rea and his aunt, Kimberly Leonard, the City's assistant director of Technology Services.



Be sure to watch for friendly faces like (from left) City assessor Julie Albert, Human Resources director Carol Mayerich, and Finance Department director Debra Hoffman on Wednesday, November 26, when they will return to local intersections asking for support of the Goodfellows' "No Child (or Senior Citizen) Without a Christmas" program. When you see them, please give as generously as you can. You'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you're celebrating the true spirit of the season by helping a less fortunate family in your community have a happy holiday. (And, if you happen to miss them, you can always make a donation at City Hall or Fire Station #4.) Photos by R. E. Kadan

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Grand Opening Gave Community a Chance to Sample Cozy Corner's Fare



Al Aliaj (left), co-owner and chef at the new Cozy Corner Coffee & Grill, celebrated the November 17 grand opening of his restaurant by serving some of his specialties, free of charge, to new customers like Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert (center) and (from left) Wanda Sanchez, Maxine Nash, and Pat Stoljaric. The restaurant is located downtown at 36601 Goddard Road. Photo by Mike Laskaska

Special Events at Oakwoods, Lake Erie Parks

For additional information or to register for interpretive programs at the Nature Center of Oakwoods Metropark near Flat Rock, call 734-782-3956.

For programs at Marshlands Museum & Nature Center of Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown, call 1-800-477-3189 or 734-379-5020.

Oakwoods

- **Tadpoles** (Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m.; Nature Center) – "Winter Fun" is the theme for this month's program, open to children ages 2 to 5 years. Fee: \$4 per child. Preregistration is required.
- **Nature Nuts** (Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m.; Nature Center) – The theme of this month's program, open to ages 6 to 10, is "Christmas for the Birds." Fee: \$4 per child. Preregistration is required.
- **Sunday with Santa** (Sunday, December 7, at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m.; Nature Center) – Sing Christmas carols, make crafts, play games, hear the story of *The Polar Express*, and meet Santa. Cocoa and cookies will be served. Great fun for kids of all ages. Tickets: \$5 per person. Advance tickets only.
- **Homeschool Monday** (Monday, December 8, at 10 a.m.; Nature Center.) Learn about area wild canines. Fee: \$3 per person. Preregistration is required.
- **Story-tellin' Saturday** (Saturday, December 13, at 11 a.m.; Nature Center) – Sit around the fire and enjoy a cup of cocoa while listening to some good, old-fashioned Christmas tales. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration is required.
- **Christmas for the Critters** (Sunday, December 14, at 1 p.m.; Nature Center) – Make tasty treats for our feathered friends so you can enjoy seeing them all winter long. Fee: \$3 per person. Preregistration is required.

Lake Erie

- **Santa's Workshop** (Friday, December 5, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; Foodbar) – Start your season out right by bringing your kids to meet the Jolly Old Elf himself, decorate some cookies, play a few games, and take a caroling hay ride. Tickets: \$6 per person, by advance sales only, available at the Lake Erie Metropark office.
- **December Do-Day: Natural Ornaments** (Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m.; Marshlands Museum and Nature Center) – Make your own Christmas tree ornaments using things in nature. You'd be amazed at what a gall, a nut, or a dried bit of weed stem can become when given a creative treatment. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration is required.
- **Muskrat Club: The Real Reindeer** (Saturday, December 13, at 10:30 a.m.; Marshlands Museum and Nature Center) – Children, kindergarten through 3rd grade, are invited to explore nature and history as part of the Muskrat Club. After so much talk about Rudolph, it's time to hear something about all of the other reindeer. Take a close look at the real creature behind the myth, the caribou, and find out how it lives, eats, and flies (or walks). Fee: \$2 per child. Preregistration is required.
- **December Do-Day: Natural Gift Tags** (Sunday, December 14, at 2 p.m.; Marshlands Museum and Nature Center) – Make your own nature-inspired tags this year. Using plant prints and track stamps, create mini works of art that might have 'em throwing away the gift and keeping the tag! Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration is required.

Visit www.metroparks.com for info. □

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Upcoming Special Events Are Taylor-made for the 2008 Holiday Season

These seasonal events in (or connected to) the City of Taylor will put a little joy in your holidays.

Santa's Magic Forest

Bring the entire family to visit Santa, enjoy live entertainment, and visit an enchanting winter wonderland of holiday scenes featuring animated characters and beautiful light displays at Santa's Magic Forest in Heritage Park (12111 Pardee Road). The Magic Forest will be open each weekend through December 21. Hours will be 5 to 8 p.m. Fridays, 1 to 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 1 to 7 p.m. Sundays.

Admission is \$3; \$2 for seniors and children 10 and under. Photos with Santa (by Rosecrans Picture Perfect Photography) will be \$7 each. All proceeds from Santa's Magic Forest benefit Fish & Loaves Community Food Bank, a nonprofit organization that is operating the holiday display as a fund-raiser to support its continued work of providing nourishment to those in need in Taylor and surrounding communities.

For information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 734-374-3906. For information about Fish & Loaves Community Food Bank, call 734-778-1611 or visit www.downriverfishandloaves.org.

Special Note: Santa Claus will arrive at the Midtown Taylor Fire Station at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 29, and make his way via fire truck to Santa's Magic Forest by 1 p.m. Residents are encouraged to welcome Santa by lining up along Goddard and Pardee roads between the fire station and Heritage Park.

Christmas Concert

The Taylor Community Chorus will present its annual Christmas Concert at the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee Road) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 6. The event, which typically draws standing-room-only crowds, will feature holiday music and other tunes performed under the direction of Mark Ennis.

To purchase advance tickets (\$5 each), call 313-717-1242.

The Nutcracker

The Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra and Ballet Americana (Taylor's home dance company) will present Tchaikovsky's

The Nutcracker, an endearing holiday classic ballet that tells the story of a magical kingdom with a prince and princess, toy soldiers, and a sugarplum fairy.

The full version will be performed at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, December 7. A shorter version, suitable for younger children, is scheduled for 11 a.m. December 6. All performances will be given at the Ford Theater for the Arts Auditorium, located adjacent to the Max M. Fisher Music Center in Detroit.

For information on purchasing tickets, call 313-576-5111 or visit the Web site: www.detroitssymphony.com.

Tree Lighting Ceremony and Sing-Along

Bring the family to an old-fashioned tree-lighting ceremony and sing-along that will feature a performance by the Taylor Community Chorus. Hot chocolate and cider will be served.

The free event will be held at the Taylor Conservatory (Northline Road, just east of Pardee Road, next to the Heritage Park Petting Farm) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9.

Taylor Youth Theater Presents A Holiday To Remember

Actors ages 6 to 19 will perform music from around the world, as well as hometown favorites, in *A Holiday To Remember*. The show will be performed at the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee Road) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 12; 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 13; and 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 14.

Tickets – available at the door and at the Taylor Golf, Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road) – are \$8; \$6 for seniors and students.

For information, call 734-374-3906 weekdays.

Breakfast with Santa

Children and their families get to dine with Santa and Mrs. Claus at this always-popular event, to be held at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club (25505 Northline Road) and the Taylor Meadows Golf Club (25360 Ecorse Road) on Saturday, December 13, at 9 and 11 a.m.

Tickets for the events, which always sell out quickly, are now available at both

pro shops for \$7 each. *Children must be accompanied by an adult.* Families are welcome to use their own cameras, although photos will be available for an additional charge.

For information, call 734-287-2100 or visit www.taylorgolf.com. Reserve booster seats/high chairs when purchasing tickets.

Reindeer Days at the Petting Farm

Santa and his reindeer will make their annual visit to the Heritage Park Petting Farm (12803 Pardee Road, at Northline Road) from 12 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, and Sunday, December 14. Children will have an opportunity to tell Santa their holiday wishes, make a holiday craft, and sip hot chocolate. Santa's elves will paint faces for an additional fee. Light refreshments and stocking stuffers will be available for purchase.

Admission is just \$2 for Taylor residents; \$3 for everyone else.

For information, call 734-374-5946.

Santa Visits Taylor Community Library

Families can enjoy a visit with Santa Claus at the Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee Road) on Thursday, December 18, at 6 p.m. Highlights of the evening will include stories, songs, hot cocoa, and cookies. Don't forget your camera!

The free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Preregistration (beginning December 5) is required.

For information, call 734-287-4840.

26th Annual Seniors Christmas Party

This annual holiday party – set for Friday, December 19, from 2 to 6 p.m. – is one of the most popular events at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy Street). It includes a catered dinner, musical entertainment provided by Solitaire, a gift for everyone, and door prizes.

Tickets, \$15, *must* be purchased by December 12.

For information, call 313-291-7740.

11th Annual True Meaning of Christmas (Free Christmas Dinner)

Each year, a group of volunteers get together on Christmas Day to serve a free holiday dinner to anyone – whether alone, less fortunate, or hungry – and their guests. The dinner – served from 12 to 3 p.m. at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy Street, just west of Telegraph Road and north of Ecorse Road) – is open to everybody! This year, the meal will include turkey and all the trimmings, ham, white and sweet potatoes, gravy, salad, corn, beverages, and desserts.

The dinner is organized by the Donski family, which years ago chose to end its annual gift exchange and put the money toward a meal for anyone to enjoy. The Taylor Police Department has donated dozens of turkeys and hams. Further contributions are made by the Taylor Governmental Management and Administrative Employees Association.

Last year's Christmas meal drew an estimated 200 diners and plenty of volunteers. Those who cannot arrange transportation to the Ford Center can call for a free ride in advance or on the day of the event. The telephone number is 313-291-7740.

Local organizations and churches are asked to spread the word about the free dinner to their members and associates. □

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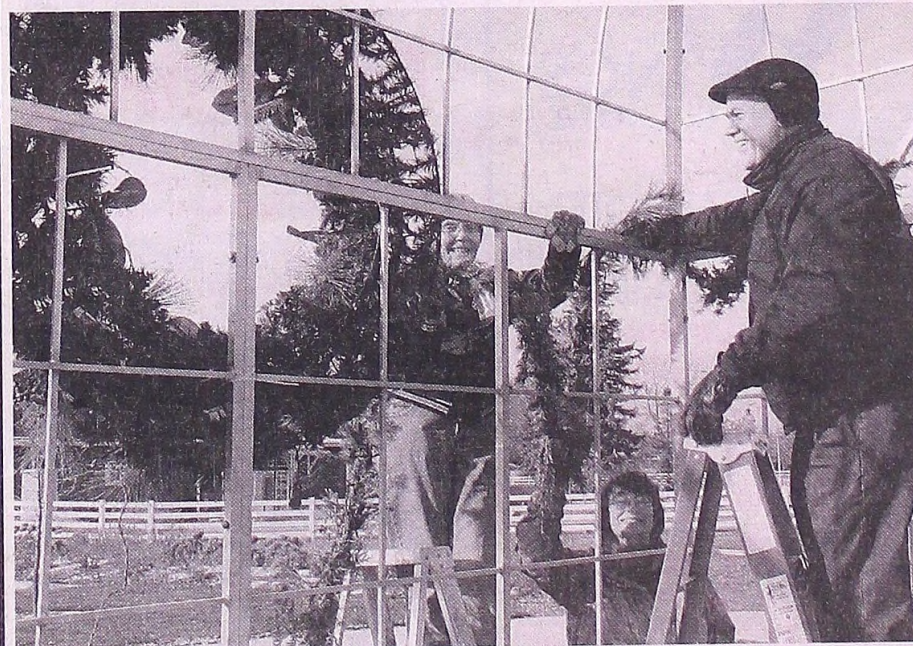
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Conservatory Gets Seasonal Makeover



Volunteers like (from left) Sandy Salowich, Patty Donahue, and Mark Ennis got together on November 22 to string thousands of lights, drape garlands, and hang wreaths in preparation for a December 9 Tree-lighting and Sing-along. For details about the free program, open to the public, see the article above.

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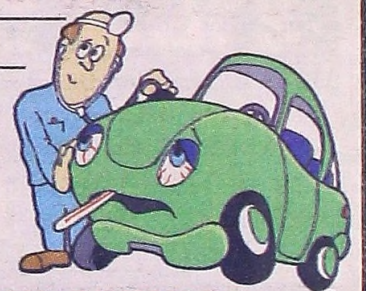
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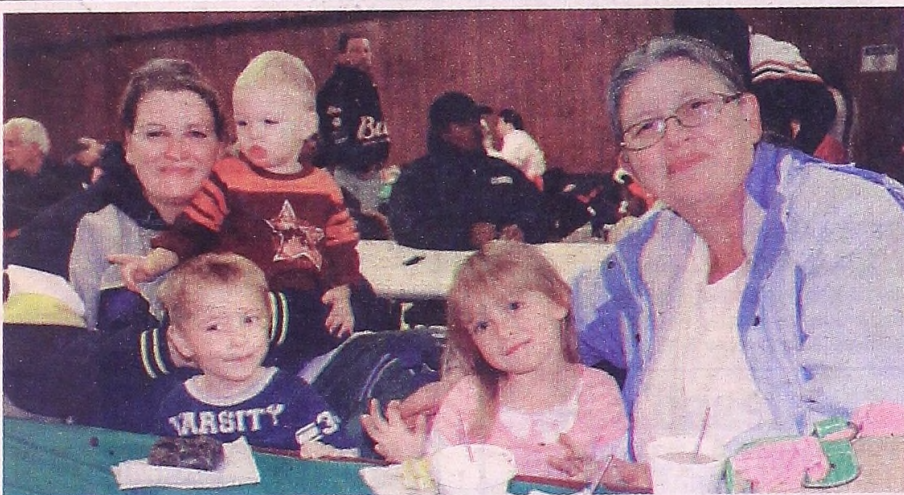
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Romulus Welcomes Santa



Leading the community in Christmas caroling at the City's annual tree-lighting ceremony, held November 21 at Historical Park, were 13-year-old Tyler Foster (center) and (from left) Tanya Cofield, assistant director, Department of Parks and Recreation; Councilman Harry Crout; Stuart Kerr; Mayor Alan R. Lambert; Councilmen John Barden and Bill Wadsworth; and Tyler's father, Joe Mabelitini. After Santa's arrival, Tyler flipped the switch that lit the City tree.



Afterward, the crowd moved to Romulus Progressive Hall, where refreshments (provided by the Recreation Department) were enjoyed by all, including (from left) Virginia Whitney of Taylor; her 14-month-old son, Andrew; Donald and Tangie Jackson (ages 2 and 3, respectively) of Romulus; and grandmother Linda Jackson, also of Romulus. Photo by Kathleen Trent



Youngsters who made holiday crafts included 4-year-old Andrew Eves (left) and Kenny Legion, age 6.



Among those who shared their Christmas wishes with Santa were (from left) Bradley Eves (age 2), Nevaeh Doucet (age 6), and Andrew Eves.



Santa and three-year-old Destiny Lomax had a good conversation.



Also sitting on Santa's lap was Kody Foley, age 3.

The City of Romulus would like to thank Jim Poet for once again donning the red suit.

Local Programs Celebrate the Holidays

Be sure to make time for some of the following seasonal events in Belleville, Huron Township, and Romulus.

Belleville

3K Jingle Bell "Fun Run"

The Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation and the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce will host a 3K Jingle Bell "Fun Run" on the afternoon of Saturday, December 13. Proceeds from the \$20-per-person entry fee will benefit the Education Foundation.

For more information, or to register, call the Chamber at 734-697-7151.

Holiday Parade Features Tree-lighting, Visit from Santa

The Chamber's annual Christmas Lights Parade – set for Saturday, December 13 – will begin at 6 p.m. at Belleville High School (501 West Columbia Avenue) and conclude at Horizon Park, where fireworks may be viewed from a "warming tent" at 7:30 p.m. *Please note that no parking will be permitted along Main Street.*

Among those participating in the parade will be Santa Claus, who will stop at the Belleville Area Museum (405 Main Street) to light the tree and accept a "key to the city" before returning to his float, then visiting with children at the First United Methodist Church (417 Charles Street). Children will receive filled stockings and candy canes. Parents are encouraged to bring their own cameras, since Polaroid pictures will not be taken this year.

New this year will be on-site ice-carving demonstrations at the 4th Street Mall. Lighted ice carvings will be displayed along Main Street for the parade.

Refreshments will be available for sale at Belleville High School starting at 3 p.m., and from concession trucks along the parade route.

Parade entry forms are available from the Chamber office (248 Main Street) or newsletter (visit www.bellevillech.org).

For more information, call the Chamber at 734-697-7151.

Huron Township

Holiday Program

Huron Township's annual holiday program – set for Sunday, December 7 – will begin downtown at 4 p.m. at Samuel Adams House, where residents can come to enjoy storytelling, cookies, and cocoa courtesy of the Historical Commission.

At 6 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fire truck to light the township tree. The annual Parade of Lights will follow. Everyone is encouraged to decorate a vehicle with lights or walk in the parade.

Afterward, hot cocoa and cookies will be served at Miller Elementary (18995 Hannan Road), where Santa will hear children's Christmas wishes. He'll also make himself available for photo ops, just \$2 each. Free frame-making will be available.

For information, contact the Huron Township Department of Parks and Recreation: 734-753-4466, ext. 149.

Romulus

Donations, Applications Accepted

The Romulus Goodfellows are accepting donations of cash, gift certificates, winter apparel, and new, unwrapped toys (among other items) for their "No Child (or Senior Citizen) Without a Christmas" program. Items may be dropped off at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road) or Fire Station #4 (28777 Eureka Road) during normal business hours through the beginning of December.

Business owners and civic groups interested in "adopting" a family are being sought, as well. For information, call Mayor Alan R. Lambert's office at 734-942-7571.

Romulus residents who would like to receive help from the Goodfellows may fill out an application and return it any weekday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Hall or Fire Station #4. The deadline for registration is Friday, December 5.

For more information, call the Goodfellows Hot Line at 734-955-4577.

Decorating Contest

If you are a Romulus resident who decorates the outside of your home for the holidays, you're invited to take part in this annual contest. Just register your name, address, and telephone number by calling the Recreation Department (734-941-8665) no later than noon on Monday, December 1.

Prizes of \$100, \$25, and \$15 will be awarded to the top three finishers.

Romulus residents who don't enter the contest can volunteer to help judge the event. A bus will transport judges around the city on Tuesday, December 2, beginning at 6 p.m. Preregistration is required.

There is no charge to enter or judge.

Tree-trimming Party at the Library

The Romulus Public Library's annual tree-trimming party is set for Saturday, December 6, at 10:30 a.m.

Those who attend will enjoy some good, old-fashioned fun (including the stringing of popcorn and cranberries for garland), and will also have a chance to make two ornaments – one for the library's tree and one to take home.

Other highlights will include a pizza feast and pictures with Santa.

Although there is no charge to participate, preregistration is required. For more information, call 734-942-7589.

Lunch/Story with Santa

Santa Claus will be at the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, to share lunch and a story with youngsters.

Cost (includes two pieces of pizza, chips, a craft, and story time) is \$4 per child. (Optional) pictures with Santa are \$2.

Register at the Rec Center (35765 Northline) by Thursday, December 4.

Santa's Mailbox

Children who "post" letters to Santa in the Romulus Civic League's special mailbox, which will be displayed in front of the public library, will get a personal reply. Deadline is Friday, December 19. □

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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 5.

Belleville

Health Through the Holidays

Oakwood Hospital has teamed up with Advanced Screening to offer a low-cost health screening program at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) on Friday, December 12.

Available tests will include EKG and screens for heart, cholesterol, stroke, aneurysm, and leg circulation. Flu shots will also be available.

Call 800-541-8110 for an appointment. For more information, including prices, call 734-699-3291 or visit the Web: <http://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/health.pdf>.

Teen Programs

Teen programs for students in grades 6-12 will be held at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) on Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. according to the following schedule:

- **Holiday Get-Together** (December 18),
- **World Peace Night** (January 15), and
- **Valentine Party** (February 12).

For information, call 734-699-3291.

Books on Wheels

In an effort to provide everyone in the Belleville area with easy access to library resources, the Fred C. Fischer Library is spearheading a "Books on Wheels" program to deliver books to those unable to access the library in person. This effort is meant to target not only senior apartments, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities, but also private residences.

Any person of any age in the Belleville, Sumpter, or Van Buren area who would like library services, but is homebound, is welcome to participate. Contact Michelle at the library (734-699-3291) during business hours: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Note: This program is also in need of volunteers to deliver books to participants. Volunteers must have their own transportation. Call Michelle for information.

Huron Township

Nursery Accepting Applications

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery is still accepting applications for classes for 3- and 4-year-old children. The nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization – located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street) – emphasizes kindergarten readiness, and offers activities like art, music, exercise, and field trips.

For information, call Becki Graybeal at 734-941-3926.

Romulus

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- **Mr. Paradise** by Elmore Leonard (December 8),
- **Death of Ivan Ilyich** by Leo Tolstoy (January 12),
- **American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery** by Loren D. Estleman (February 9),
- **Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation** by Cokie Roberts (March 9),
- **Thief of Souls** by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- **Anatomy of a Murder** by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Roast Beef Dinner

The next in a series of roast beef dinners hosted by Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The dinners – open to all – include roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, and beverage. Takeouts and deliveries to the Romulus area are available.

Succeeding dinners will be held the second Saturday of each month.

Suggested donation is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6 to 12.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

After-Christmas Bowling

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation is inviting the community to come out for some after-Christmas bowling at Michael B's bowling alley (37452 Huron River Drive) on Monday, December 29, from 6 to 8 p.m.

A cost of \$20 per adult/child couple includes two games, shoes, dinner, and monetary prizes! Preregistration is required.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Bowling Benefit

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce is planning a Bowling Night benefit on Saturday, January 24, 2009. The event will take place at Lodge Lanes (south of I-94 Service Drive, west of Belleville Road, in Belleville) from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

A ticket cost of \$40 per couple (\$20 per person) will include three games of 9-Pin No-Tap bowling, "mystery" games

(first and second), pizza, and door prizes. Jackpots and a cash bar will also be available. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber office (11189 Shook Road).

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the CAF 5 Prescription Drug Program for children who are less fortunate.

For information, call 734-893-0694 or email info@romuluschamber.com.

Wrestling Club Meets

The Romulus Wrestling Club's new season has already begun, and coaches Jeff Kelsey, Kevin Cox, and Brian Householder are looking for new members of all ages and experience levels to join the free program.

The club meets in the wrestling room at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road) each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.

For further information, contact Kelsey at 734-502-9382

Taylor

Thanksgiving Buffet Is Holiday Tradition at Lakes of Taylor Golf Club

The annual Lakes of Taylor Thanksgiving Buffet will be held from 12 to 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day (November 27) at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club (25505 Northline Road). The buffet features honey-glazed ham, sliced turkey with gravy, corn bread stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet-potato crunch, green-bean casserole, and homemade stuffed peppers with tomato sauce. A full salad bar, assortment of breads, and holiday desserts are also included.

Cost for the buffet is \$18.95; seniors and children pay \$14.95 and \$7.50, respectively. Seating is by reservation only.

For information or reservations, call 734-287-9001 or visit www.taylorgolf.com.

Rock-A-Thon Benefits Hungry

A Rock-A-Thon fund-raiser – to be held at Best Buy in Southland from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, November 28 – will benefit New Dimension Outreach, a nonprofit organization that operates a food bank in the New Life Metro Church (20320 Superior Road). Volunteers will rock in rocking chairs to solicit donations of money and toys, with volunteers rotating shifts.

A separate fund-raising collection will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the same day at Wal-mart on Telegraph Road.

According to president and founder Donna Bridges, New Dimension Outreach has serviced more than 20 communities for more than 11 years, and feeds more than 2,500 people per month. The group's success depends on donations and volunteers.

New Dimension offers a variety of referrals for community services in Taylor and other communities. The food bank is open between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, with distribution by assigned number at 5 p.m.

For information, call 734-444-9694 or e-mail eventscoordinator1@yahoo.com.

Craft Time at the Library

Children in grades K-3 are invited to take part in the Taylor Community Library's monthly Craft Time program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Upcoming programs include:

- Gingerbread Houses and Kwanzaa (December 10),
- Valentine's Day (January 28),
- St. Patrick's Day (February 25), and
- Easter (March 25).

Each Wednesday program begins at 6:30 p.m. Although there is no fee to attend, space is limited, and advance registration is required.

For information, call 734-287-4840.

"The Gift of the Magi"

The Downriver Council for the Arts (20904 Northline Road) will present a poetic version of O'Henry's classic, "The Gift of the Magi," on Thursday, December 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. Ben Randal, on guitar, and Carole Scott, on flute, will provide musical entertainment. Seating is limited; advanced registration is requested.

For information, call 734-287-6103 or visit www.downriverarts.com.

Drive-through Living Nativity

Experience "the real meaning of Christmas" with actors and live animals at a drive-through Living Nativity at New Hope Assembly of God (14000 Racho Boulevard, just north of Southland) from 6 to 10 p.m. the weekend of December 19-21. The event, which is subtitled "a journey to the past that will affect your future," will feature nine scenes on nine acres, with a CD/tape narration and music. A camel, donkey and sheep are part of the cast.

Admission – \$5 per car – includes hot chocolate, coffee and cookies.

For information, call 734-287-4673 or visit www.newhopeag.com. □

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Sassy Seniors

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Romulus

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Gift Donations Sought for Holiday Gala

The Romulus Senior Center is asking for donations of gift items to be given to senior citizens attending its annual Holiday Gala, set for Wednesday, December 17, at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Rose Swidan at 734-955-4120.

Speaking of the Gala ...

This year's festive program will also feature seasonal music, dancing, and a traditional menu of ham, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, and a surprise dessert.

Seating is limited; advance registration is required.

Motor City Casino

The Romulus Senior Center's next trip to Motor City Casino is set for Monday, December 22, at 9 a.m. Besides free transportation to and from the casino, participants will receive a free \$15 voucher, good for food or tokens.

Advance sign-up is required.

Lunch Out

The Senior Center's next lunch outing will be to Red Lobster on Friday, December 19, at 11 a.m.

Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Senior Shopping Day at Target

The Senior Center bus will depart for Target bright and early (7:15 a.m.) on Thursday, December 4, to take advantage of Senior Day special prices from 8 to 11 a.m.

Transportation is free, but seats are limited; advance sign-up is required.

Monday Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors are invited to ride the Center's bus, free of charge, to shop at Meijer/Southland on December 1, Wal-Mart on December 8, and Kmart on December 15. Transportation will depart from the Center at 9:30 a.m.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

Converter Box Coupons Available

Still not ready for the February 2009 switch to digital programming? Pick up a coupon for a converter box at the Center.

Hot Lunches Warm Frigid Afternoons

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes pork chops, fried chicken, turkey, stuffed cabbage, crumb-topped scrod, and seafood salad.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Senior Center Closings

The Romulus Senior Center will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas, and December 31 for New Year's Eve.

Romulus Athletic Center Memberships Make Great Christmas Gifts!

The beautiful new Romulus Athletic Center is offering generous discounts on memberships for Romulus senior citizens. Individuals can join for as little as \$168.75 per year; families (all members must be senior citizens) for as little as \$300.

Romulus seniors can also purchase individual day passes for just \$5.25.

The RAC – located at 35765 Northline – is open Monday through Saturday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 734-942-2223 for info.

Taylor

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Christmas Party

The Ford Senior Center's Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature a catered dinner by Veronica's, music by Solitaire, a gift for each person, and door prizes.

Tickets (\$15 each) must be purchased by Thursday, December 11.

Goofy Christmas Exchange

There's no need to buy anything for this gift exchange! Bring an item that you no longer want from home, and exchange it for someone else's! Wrap it in pretty paper and win a prize for most beautiful package.

The event is set for Monday, December 22, at 10 a.m.

Special Trips

For more information about this and other special trips, call the Center.

- **The Nutcracker** (Sunday, December 7. \$21 covers transportation to a Ballet Americana performance of *The Nutcracker* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Lunch at Applebee's is not included. Bus departs at 12:30 p.m. and returns about 6 p.m.)

"An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then check out a first-run movie (with free popcorn and beverages) on Tuesday, December 16. Bus departs from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and returns at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Advance registration is required.

Texas Hold 'Em

Play Texas Hold 'Em on Monday, December 29, and benefit the Senior Center's bus fund, too. Cost for play and food is \$10, with 20% going to the fund. Prizes will be awarded to top winners.

Preregistration is required.

Senior Activity Cards

The City of Taylor is offering its senior citizens (age 55 and older) a Senior Activity Card, which entitles holders to free year-round swimming at City pools, free use of the Taylor Recreation Center, and other discount services. The card – available at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road) – is \$25.

For details, call 734-374-3906. □

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

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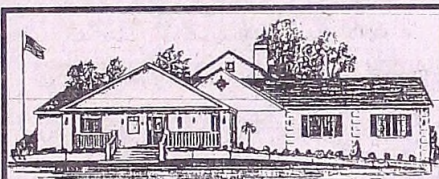
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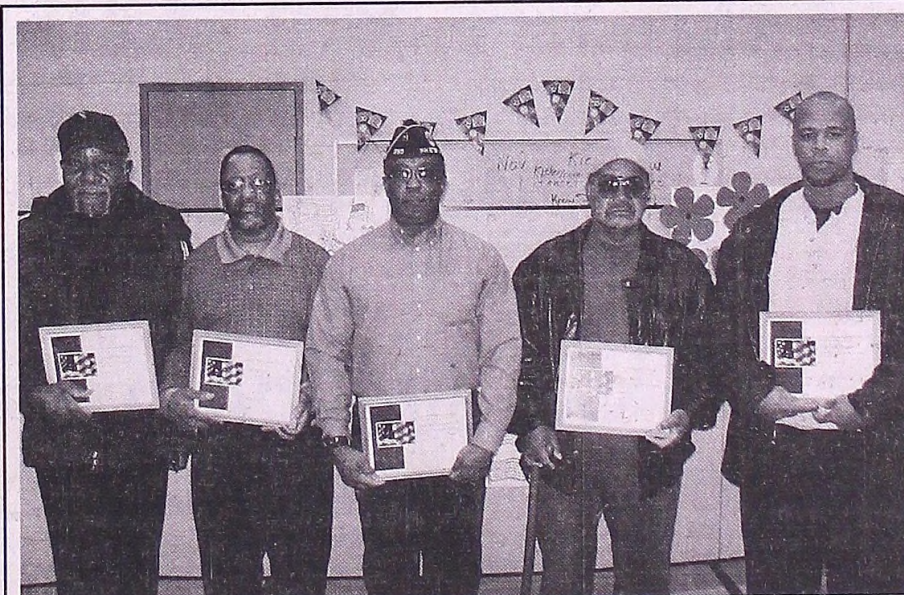
Around Romulus



Performing at the Romulus Senior Center's annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, held November 13, was the all-brother band of (from right) Tyler (age 13, guitar), Bryce (10, violin), Colton (12, violin), and Mason Robbins (7, bass). Zayne (left), age 5, plays violin, but did not perform. The boys are the sons of Todd and Deanna Robbins of Romulus.



Romulus Police Officer Donald Smith (second from right) was promoted to Sergeant during a brief ceremony held November 5. Among those on hand were (from left) Director of Public Safety Charles Kirby, Mayor Alan R. Lambert, and Deputy Chief Michael Coffey.



Students at Cory Elementary in Romulus observed Veteran's Day with an assembly honoring our nation's soldiers. Jada McGinnis, a Cory sixth-grader, read a tribute to our country's veterans that she wrote for the occasion. Local veterans in attendance spoke about what serving their country meant to them, and answered many questions from the students. Veterans who were honored with certificates included (left to right) Horatio Donald, George Stubbs, Roosevelt Stubbs, Tyree Vesey, and William Bryant.



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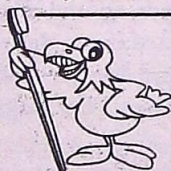
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